

## **Jail and cane for snatch thief who molested victim**

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AN INDIAN national was yesterday sentenced to seven months in **jail** and three strokes of the cane for theft and outrage of modesty.

A district court heard that Chandrasekaran Vairakannu, 27, had propositioned three women who were chatting near the taxi stand of Jurong Point shopping centre on Oct 21.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Alan Hu said Chandrasekaran approached the women that evening and asked: 'One night, how much?'

One of the women was 36 years old, and the other two were 17.

When he was rebuffed, he grabbed one of their handbags, which was on a stone ledge, and ran.

The two younger women gave chase, while their 36-year-old friend called the police.

Chandrasekaran later ditched the handbag after it was caught in some bushes.

One of the women kicked him after they cornered him, causing him to fall. She continued kicking him to prevent him from getting to his feet, but Chandrasekaran managed to get up, and squeezed her breast during the scuffle.

The police arrived shortly and placed him under arrest.

Yesterday, Chandrasekaran asked the court to impose a lenient sentence. He said he had been drunk after polishing off two bottles of Chinese rice wine at his dormitory.

An analysis by the Health Sciences Authority showed that his blood alcohol level then was 188mg - more than twice the legal limit of 80mg for drink-driving.

Two other charges of outrage of modesty were also taken into consideration during sentencing.

Chandrasekaran could have been jailed for up to three years and fined up to \$10,000 for theft.

For outrage of modesty, he could have been sentenced to up to two years' **jail**, fined up to \$10,000, and caned.